

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 IGA-02 L-03 OES-07 SS-15
EB-08 /046 W

-----033017 081444Z /42

P R 081420Z AUG 77
FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1107
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALEXANDRIA 0817

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER NEA FROM AMBASSADOR
IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (SULTAN, AHMED)
SUBJECT: DEPUTY PRIMIN/MINELECTRICITY AHMED SULTAN'S VISIT TO US

1. DO NOT HAVE WITH ME HERE IN ALEXANDRIA VARIOUS
MESSAGES EXCHANGED BETWEEN CAIRO AND DEPT ON DEPUTY
PRIMIN/MINELECTRICITY AHMED SULTAN'S UPCOMING TRIP
TO WASHINGTON. AM INFORMED, HOWEVER, PERHAPS WRONGLY,
THAT A CONTRETEMPS MAY HAVE ARISEN RE SCHEDULING A
MEETING FOR DEPUTY PRIMIN SULTAN WITH EITHER AID
ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR.

2. I TRUST THIS HAS BY NOW BEEN SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED,
BUT DO WISH PLACE ON RECORD IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH GOE
AND I ATTACH TO SCHEDULING SUCH A MEETING WITH EITHER
GOVERNOR GILLIGAN OR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR NOOTER.
RECOGNIZE ONE REASON FOR AID RELUCTANCE MAY BE FACT
THAT WE ARE NOT LIKELY TO HAVE ANYTHING MEANINGFUL TO
SAY ABOUT STATUS NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR AGREEMENT, BUT
THIS HAS BEEN A PERENNIAL PROBLEM FOR US AND IS HARDLY
JUSTIFICATION TO REFUSE SUCH A MEETING. WE IN CAIRO
HAVE FOR SOME TIME BEEN CARRYING BALL IN HANDLING THIS
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AWKWARD ISSUE WITH EGYPTIANS, BUT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL IF
DEPUTY PRIMIN SULTAN RECEIVED DIRECT BRIEFING ON STATUS
AND PROBLEMS FROM APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON AGENCY. SULTAN
MAY ALSO EXPRESS NEED FOR EVENTUAL AID ASSISTANCE IN
FINANCING NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR. HE HAS DONE SO WITH US
AND HAS REGULARLY BEEN TOLD THIS NOT VERY LIKELY. NO
REASON WHY GOVERNOR GILLIGAN OR NOOTER SHOULD NOT REIN-

FORCE THIS POINT. IT WILL NOT MAKE OR BREAK VISIT,
ESPECIALLY IF IT CAN BE POINTED OUT THAT CONGRESS
UNLIKELY LOOK FAVORABLY ON ANY SUCH IDEA

3. APART FROM ABOVE, FACT REMAINS THAT WE ALREADY HAVE
HEAVY AID CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN MINELECTRICITY PROJECTS.
IN FACT, MINELECTRICITY IS PROBABLY RECEIVING LARGEST
SINGLE CAPITAL INVESTMENT SLICE OF OUR AID PROGRAM.
GIVEN THIS SITUATION, IT WOULD SEEM STRANGE INDEED IF
THE RESPONSIBLE GOE MINISTER, WHO IS IN ADDITION A
DEPUTY PRIMIN, SHOULD NOT BE RECEIVED BY AID ADMINISTRATOR
OR HIS DEPUTY. ANY SUCH OMISSION CERTAIN BE NOTICED AND
WILL GENERATE UNHELPFUL SPECULATION ON PART SULTAN AND
GOE OFFICIALS. AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME, WHEN WE ARE
WORKING WITH EGYPTIANS ON DIFFICULT OVER-ALL ARAB/ISRAELI
PEACE EFFORT, I SUBMIT THAT IT IS IN OUR OVER-ALL BEST
INTEREST AT LEAST TO EXTEND ALL APPROPRIATE COURTESIES
TO A VISITING SENIOR GOE OFFICIAL SUCH AS SULTAN. A
BIT OF HANDHOLDING OF VISITING SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS IS
ALWAYS HELPFUL.

4. IF AID/W REMAINS ADAMANT, I SUGGEST WE TRY TO ARRANGE
A BRIEF MEETING WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER.
CHASE

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Sent Date: 08-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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ISecure: 1
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